

Furthermore, this requirement is a solution in search of a problem. According to the Congressional Research Service, only about two hundred and twenty acts of Congress have been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court since 1789. In the past ten years, the Court has struck down laws a mere seventeen times. The number of acts courts have upheld is surely in the thousands. So I ask, what is the Constitutional crisis this requirement addresses?

The rule itself demonstrates the lack of urgency here. It requires a perfunctory statement without explanation. Committees need not consider the statement, no Member will ever vote on it, and Senate bills can be considered without one. By omitting any teeth, the rule clearly indicates that Members are already capable of ensuring that bills comply with the Constitution. In the rare instance we go too far, the courts are perfectly capable of correcting us.

Sometimes, the Constitution itself must be corrected. For example, the original Constitution expressly allowed for slavery and counted slaves as three-fifths of a person. Certainly, I would not be here to make this statement if no one had challenged those provisions. Without the Fourteenth Amendment, the Constitution would not guarantee the rights to due process and equal protection that are now fundamental principles throughout American life. For over one hundred years, until 1920, it failed to ensure that women had a right to vote. Imagine a country in which only white, land-owning men could vote—that is the world we would live in if we were bound by the words of the Constitution as written.

Finally, while we respect the Constitution's limits on governmental action, we must remember that the framers purposely created a living document and intended it to grow and change with the country. The Constitution is a work in progress and what we do in Congress can help push it forward. Clauses we cite now may not exist or may be understood differently in the future. Pretending otherwise through empty (and costly) formalities does a disservice to its spirit and the causes of freedom and justice.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHERINE C. KELLY

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, Katherine C. Kelly, a lifelong champion of human rights and universal health care, who died on the morning of January 6, 2011 at the age of 86.

Katherine was a good friend and supporter for more than 40 years. Over the course of her life, she and her late husband, Edward M. Kelly, were prominently active in the civil rights movement, the fight for women's rights, gay rights, and every progressive movement in the United States. Katherine dedicated her life to the Democratic Party, serving as State Committeewoman from Palm Beach County for 26 years.

Additionally, she was named to the Electoral College and served as a delegate to five Democratic National Conventions.

She also served as the Legislative Director for Florida NOW, as Vice President of the Florida Women's Political Caucus, as a Board member for NARAL, and as Development Director of Women Leaders Online. Her continued dedication to political and progressive causes led to recognition as the Outstanding Feminist 2001 by Florida NOW and Woman of the Year in 2008 by the Democratic Women's Club Palm Beach County.

Mr. Speaker, Katherine was deeply loved and widely respected by everyone who knew her. Today, our nation has lost someone who represented all that is good in the world.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America for its tremendous contributions to our cultural and civic life. Founded more than two decades ago by Hellenic Cypriot Americans of Paphian ancestry, the Association has carried out its vital educational, cultural, charitable, and humanitarian mission while helping promote peace, unity, and understanding on the occupied island of Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association of America held the Ninth Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit dinner-dance last month. The Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit was bestowed upon Mr. Alkinoos Ioannidis for his dedication to promoting Hellenic culture through music and song. Born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, Mr. Ioannidis studied classical guitar at the European Conservatory, moved to Athens, and was signed by Universal Music at age 23. He went on to pursue a successful career in acting and music, eventually focusing his efforts as a thriving musical performer and composer with many successful recordings. Influenced by traditional Cypriot music, the Greek composers of the last decades, and classical, jazz and rock genres. He often performs with orchestras and ensembles. Above all, he remains devoted to the Cypriot people, their culture, and their struggle for justice, donating his time and talent to numerous concerts and performances benefitting various Hellenic organizations and causes associated with justice for Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association awarded the Distinguished Fellow Cypriot Award to Mr. Polys Kyriacou, a distinguished poet and lyricist who has distinguished himself in his passionate commitment to justice for Cyprus and his love for Hellenic culture. Born in Nicosia, he served in the Cyprus National Guard before his studies at Pantios University in Athens. He came to New York City in 1982 to earn a Master's Degree in Communication and Graphic Design at the Pratt Institute and then worked as an Art Director at the Proini daily newspaper. He served for many years on the board of the Cyprus Federation of America and the Justice for Cyprus Committee, published two volumes of poetry, including *Sximata*, which won First Prize for a Young Poet from the Cyprus Ministry of Education. A

Member of the Board of Directors of Cosmos FM Radio, he hosts his own program every Sunday morning and remains deeply involved in New York City's vibrant Hellenic community.

The Member of the Year Award was given to Mr. George Kouspos. Born and raised in Paphos on Cyprus, he came to the United States in 1984 after serving as an officer in the Cyprus National Guard. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the City College of New York and an M.B.A. degree from Adelphi University while working his way through school. He became a principal at CY Electric Corp. Throughout his studies and his subsequent professional success, he has remained extraordinarily devoted to the cause of justice for Cyprus; to the PanPaphian Association, which he has served as Vice President, Cultural Officer, and Treasurer; and above all to his beloved family, Nancy (Nafsika), who was born in Asgata, Cyprus, and his beautiful daughters, Demetra and Maria.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in paying tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America, the recipients of its awards, and all its many contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SUZANNE WAUGHTEL HOPPER

#### HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, today I will be traveling back to Ohio to express my sympathy to the family of Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Suzanne Waughtel Hopper. Deputy Hopper's funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Deputy Hopper was killed in the line of duty on New Year's Day while responding to shots fired in a local community. Because of her decisive action, courage and bravery lives were saved. She is a true American hero.

#### IMAN ABBASI

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, on January 9, Iraqi authorities will deport the Abbasi family to Iran where they face certain persecution.

The Abbasis are political refugees. Their father got in trouble in Iran because he dared to write that Iranians actually deserve freedom. He wrote that every man should be able to have a say in who governs them. This simple idea is the very foundation on which our great Nation was built and the fundamental, universal human right of all mankind. But the tiny tyrant of Iran did not like that. He saw Mr. Abbasi as a threat to his power.

The regime, having tasted power, is doing whatever it can to keep it. That includes imprisoning, torturing, and murdering anyone who so dares speak against it. But these are desperate actions from a desperate regime.